



THE QUESTION OF A LIVING WAGE

(Written Especially For The Bulletin.)

Perhaps you noticed, the other day, that the railroad labor board had promptly turned down a demand from one Grable, assuming to represent certain farmers, that it immediately define a "living wage."

Of course it did. What else could it do? As we said a week or two ago, when talking over this subject, it is impossible for any human being to tell what is a living wage for some other human being. "What is a living wage?" You might just as well ask, "How big is a piece of cheese?" or, "How old is a thousand-pound horse?"

What one family wants of each meal, another family might live on for a whole day. What one would regard as a "berry lunch," another would think a pretty good dinner. One man wants expensive and great and silk shirts and ties, while another goes along, less showily, but a good deal more comfortably, in overalls and a blouse. One woman craves that she has "nothing fit to wear," and another would evolve a dozen triumphs of adornment from the rummages in the first one's discarded gowns.

They need to say that what was one man's meat was another man's poison. Also, it has been a trifle truer for two thousand years that tastes differ. No two people are exactly alike in desires, capacities or self-control. In ancient mythology can be found the tale of a big named Procrustes, who had a bed just five cubits long. When some weary traveler entered his hospitality, he promptly took him in and bent him to this bed. If on lying down the guest was found to lack a few inches of length as long as the bed, the rack was brought in and he was stretched till he fitted, even if his backbone had to be pulled apart in the process. If, on the other hand, the guest was a little too long, so that his feet hung over, the axe was called for and enough of him chopped off to bring him within the bed's length.

As I recall the legend, this sort of conduct resulted in making King Procrustes a somewhat unpopular person. There is and always has been a prevalent belief in the truth as enunciated by Sage Benito Pizarro that "Every man is as he made himself, and sometimes a good deal worse." Practically all attempts to build one over result in something "a good deal worse" than the original, imperfect as that may be.

The attempt of Procrustes to make every man, short or long, fit his idea of what a bed should be, was no more absurd or unreasonable than the idea of a North American attempt to make every one live according to some court's or board's conception of what should be a "living wage." The thing would be ridiculous, if there weren't so many thousands running around and mauling about it.

The state of New York has just finished a big National Guard encampment at Poughkeepsie. It has lasted several weeks, with changing contingents of guardsmen arriving and departing, till a total of 10,000 had been drilled and trained—and it's the last function that the militia will perform. Now that it's all over the commissary officers report that it cost just fifteen cents a meal to sustain each man. He had plenty of substantial food, three meals a day, and often meat at all three. Everybody knows that hearty, strong men, engaged in strenuous military exercises and drill, have robust appetites as well. They want, indeed they must have, good food and plenty of it. There was no grumbling in quantity or quality at the Poughkeepsie camp. And a whole summer-long test has now demonstrated that ten thousand hard-working, blue-eyed men can be wholeheartedly, adequately and satisfactorily fed, day after day and week after week, even at present "high prices," for fifteen cents a meal or forty-five cents a day.

Not long ago a worried housekeeper wrote to our local county paper that she couldn't give her family of four even a "bounty" lunch, per head, as it cost to feed a hungry national guardman three square meals.

I've made it a study, in the last few months, to find out about what it costs any one of us to live. Some of them talk quite frankly about it. Some are more eloquently or less well-informed. Anyway, I've now got nine families on my list, not one of whom would or needs to spend as much as \$250 a year to live. They vary in numbers from two to six. They all live in homes regarded as comfortable, by country standards; are all adequately nourished, as their appearance

makes clear; wear sufficient clothing, and have "Sunday-go-to-meetin'" spare suits for emergencies. Six of them take daily papers; five of them have one or two country magazines; two use automobiles (diversity); and every one of the nine frankly admits, on pressing, that he could live on less, if driven by necessity.

Compare them with the striking shopmen of the Erie, who, at the outbreak of the strike, disoriented among the Erie committee is a paper setting forth that the labor-board's ordered wage reduction cut them to \$1,766 a year, and naively asking: "How would you like to be compelled to live on that?"

O' yes; you're perfectly right in your comment. The nine families I speak of are living on less than \$500 a year each. (1) All live in the country; (2) all have small farms; (3) raise on those farms a considerable portion of their needs; (4) they don't have to pay rent.

Take these points up, separately, in reverse order, beginning with No. 4, "they don't have to pay rent." But they have to pay taxes, and insurance, and repairs, not merely on one small, tucked-up apartment or tenement, but on house and lands and pig-pens and hen-houses, etc. And they can't move if taxes and insurance are raised on them.

No. 3; they can raise at home a considerable part of their needs. True, but they have to pay for this labor and other expenses a sum always very close to the farm-selling price of the crops and, at present, in many cases higher than they can sell them for.

Consequently, I am willing to admit that, in these two matters, they have a slight advantage over city or suburban renters.

Now consider Nos. 1 and 2. They all live in the country, and they all have small farms. Well, the country is very wide. It isn't at this moment one-half mile, nor one-tenth. There is ample room in it for every one of the greedy railroad shopmen who think they can live on \$1,766 a year, and for a good many hundred thousand more country people against the high cost of living. There is no law against these cheap-going back to the country and having all the money-saving advantages. Not even the railroad act limits their liberty in this respect. If they haven't money enough to buy a small farm, there are

HEART POUNDED

"My whole trouble seemed to be in my stomach—constant pain," Mrs. Julia A. Donahue says. "After my little girl was born in 1906, I was afflicted very much with nervousness. And that irritation of the skin which nervousness often brings on, I had a dizziness, was dizzy, my heart pounded and I had rheumatic pains and cramps in my legs and arms and my feet would go to sleep. My back ached and I was disturbed at night. I was so nervous, it all seemed to go to my stomach. I had no appetite and could not sleep well. So I felt very much worn out and weak all the time. I have taken but two bottles of Goldline Alternative liquid and I certainly do feel much relieved. It is a great medicine."

Just try Goldline yourself. You can get well with Goldline, too.

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Mark your ailments. Remember we do not use our medicine for everything. Fill in and mail to GOLDLINE MED. CO., ALBANY, N. Y.

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many to rent. I know one renter who hires a fifty-acre farm, with a good house and a barn big enough to keep two horses and six cows, for \$180 a year. And the owner pays taxes and insurance! Perhaps such a bargain couldn't be picked up every day, but there are others worth looking for. I've known a 400-acre farm with passable buildings to sell for \$400.

I can't act as a really industrious, thrifty, and healthy man who sincerely wants to live in the country, failing to find some sort of a farm which he can buy or rent at a price he can afford to pay.

Of course, such a man has got to take country disadvantages, too. He can't go to the movies when he feels bored; he can't have hot and cold running water at his daily command; he'll have to squeeze out his own milk and churn his own butter; he'll have to cut his firewood and haul it from the woodlot and saw it and split it and bring it in, instead of having coal delivered to his bin through a chute; he'll have to give up the idea that eight hours make a day's work when there are fourteen hours of busy labor calling to be done every morning; and so on and so on.

But he can live on less than \$1,766 a year; on less than a third of it; live comfortably and wholesomely, too. If that's all that is bothering him, he has the remedy in his own hands.

But if he's got a \$5,000 a year appetite he can't satisfy it on \$500 a year or on \$1,766, either; not in country nor in town.

That's where the hub of the matter lies. It is not what a man can do in the way of thrift and economy, but what he wants to do in the line of "keeping up with the procession" that counts.

There are men who would think themselves fortunate if assured of \$500 a year income. And there are men who would think themselves pauperized if they had to cut down to \$5,000 a year.

Some can get along very well on a diet of herbs, while others demand a spiced or for luncheon and plenty of fixin's withal.

It all depends. It depends on a good deal more on the man or the woman in the case than on the income.

THE FARMER.

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Our stock comprises over 400 instruments in Mahogany, English Brown, Golden Oak, Waxed Oak, Weathered Oak and American Burl Walnut.

Select any Victrola priced from \$25.00 to \$350.00 — Pay us \$1.00 deposit and the instrument is yours.

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WESTERLY

STONINGTON

The stock of the late G. L. Latham has been purchased by Robert L. Burtch. The annual financial town meeting of Stonington is to be held Monday evening, Sept. 25.

Miss Abbie Tucker, who has acted as district nurse the past year, has resigned. Deputy Sheriff and Mrs. William Broughton are spending a week in Boston. Mrs. George Allison and daughter Lucy left Thursday for a visit at Sag Harbor.

Shas Fish of New York was a caller in town Thursday.

Miss Phoebe Gadsden and Harold D. Green of Mystic were united in marriage Tuesday afternoon at Harmony cottage by Rev. Dwight C. Stone. The ceremony was witnessed by a number of relatives.

Word was received here Tuesday of the death in Pawtucket, R. I., of Mrs. Ellen Lamb Cornell, widow of Joseph P. Cornell, who died Monday evening after a brief illness. She was for many years a resident of the borough. The body has been brought to Stonington for burial.

Dr. Clarence H. Usher and son Bever, who have been spending some time in Salem, Mass., returned to Stonington on Tuesday.

The seventh annual meeting of the Stonington Visiting Nurse association was held Tuesday evening at the free library. The report of the treasurer showed a balance on hand. The purse and supplies committees reported 1,787 professional calls made by the nurse and 518 social calls, a total of 2,305. There were 20 children. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Harry Doty; first vice president, Miss Louise Trumbull; second vice president, Mrs. Emma Eaton; secretary, Mrs. E. A. Potter; treasurer, Frank Dodge; auditor, George Robinson.

PLAINFIELD

Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Townsend, their son, Gerard, and daughter, Helen, have returned to Plainfield, N. J., after spending their vacation at their summer home here.

Clifford Rathbun of Westerly is visiting his sister, Mrs. Winifred Cradney.

Mrs. Mary Phillips has returned to her home after a vacation spent with her daughter in New Bedford.

Turner Green and his son, Elmer Green, with their families have returned home after touring in Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. West have returned from a trip in New Hampshire, visiting Lake Sunapee and vicinity.

The following young people commenced their studies this week at Norwich Free Academy: Louise Jerome, Lillian Heap, Amy Doremus, Incent For.

John Hollingsworth is engaged in the work of building the new high school at Central Village.

William Salmer, who was severely injured Monday at his work in the yards of the Lawton Mill, is in Backus hospital, Norwich, and is gaining slowly.

In the First Congregational church decorations Sunday last, there were daffodils from the gardens of Harold J. Lewis, Rev. William J. Reynolds and J. L. Chapman.

Five new members were added to the church on last Communion Sunday.

The new Men's Bible class has organized with the following officers: Teacher, Dr. William E. Wilson; president, William P. Barstow; vice president, Walter D. Cleland; secretary, Everett Dawley; treasurer, Robert L. Dawley; executive committee, Walter Kingsley and C. A. Jerome.

A social hour followed the Tuesday evening meeting with the following program: Piano solo, Miss Helen Gilling; readings, Mrs. Walter P. Lathrop; vocal solo, Miss Esther Wilson. Ice cream and cakes were served. Mrs. Herman C. Cooper was the guest of the evening.

BRIEF STATE NEWS

Woodbury—Miss Fanny J. Greene observed the 100th anniversary of her birth Wednesday, the 13th.

Milford—Mrs. Lucy Carr Treat of Waterbury observed her 105th birthday Monday at the home of her relatives in

Laurel Beach, Milford. She is in good health.

Martine—Miss Ethel Frisbie, assistant librarian at the public library, whose engagement to Edgar H. Long of New York was announced recently, has tendered her resignation to the board of directors of the library, to take effect Oct. 1.

South Manchester—George H. Wadell, town treasurer, was notified this week that the cannon shipped here from the government arsenal for the army and navy club was at the freight station. The cannon was moved Monday and placed on the grounds of the army and navy club.

A Novel Windmill.

At a recent fair in Paris there was exhibited a novel windmill, says Popular Mechanics. Around the top of a light truss-wood mast are disposed, at a considerable distance circumferentially, a series of revolving blades, parallel with the mast, to which they are connected. These blades of about one-fourth the length of the mast, are each formed of a semi-circular piece with the open-face radial to the mast, and blowing from a fixed point in the wind. The blades are a thin flat blade of equal length. By this arrangement the propelling effect of the wind on these blades is the same, no matter what its direction. The vertical mast is supported by guys connected to radial arms that contain the upper pivotal bearing. At the bottom of the mast is a footstep bearing.

What a little affair it takes sometimes to start a big row!

The Boston Store Reid & Hughes Co. Inc.



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FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
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They are all ready for you—the jolly little Sport Coats, so fuzzy and warm, and the Coats with the longer lines, made of the rich pile fabrics, with fur at throat and wrist, and wide flaring sleeves.

The charming Frocks of silky crepes and soft wools have all been assembled—their name is legion, and there's a different style for each pretty garment.

Suits, too, are shown, their formal lines being well set off by the rich Autumn colorings. Blouses, Skirts, Sweaters, and all of the other delightful new garments await your approval.

Medium Priced Wearing Apparel Will Be Specially Featured

The Apparel Shop has stood for exclusiveness. It will, from now on, carry the most complete line of popular priced apparel in Norwich, without neglecting the exclusive features which have distinguished it.

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Opening Display of Autumn Fashions FOR WOMEN TODAY AND SATURDAY

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